

PREFACE

The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) previously reviewed and recommended four *in vitro* test methods for assessing the dermal corrosivity potential of chemicals (ICCVAM 1999, 2002). Because three of these methods were proprietary, ICCVAM was asked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and recommend performance standards that could be used to evaluate the acceptability of test methods that are based on similar scientific principles and that measure or predict the same biological or toxic effect. ICCVAM, in collaboration with the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM), subsequently proposed and sought public comment on performance standards for these three types of test methods. Comments were also obtained on the draft standards from the ICCVAM Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM) and the EPA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). Following consideration of public and advisory committee comments, ICCVAM revised and approved recommended performance standards for the three types of *in vitro* corrosivity test methods. Those performance standards are based on validated and accepted proprietary (i.e., copyrighted, trademarked, registered) and nonproprietary *in vitro* test methods for assessing skin corrosivity that have been determined to have sufficient accuracy and reliability for specific testing purposes. The performance standards should assist other test developers in the validation of test methods that are similar in structure and function, and facilitate acceptance of test methods that adhere to the applicable performance standards.

This document is available online at <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>; printed copies are available on request from the NICEATM (NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-17, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; telephone: 919-541-3398, fax: 919-541-0947, e-mail: iccvam@niehs.nih.gov).

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